

Editor:

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*"In golf as in life it is the follow
through that makes the difference."
- Unknown*

Health Care Agency's Emergency Medical Services



Automated External Defibrillators (AED)

By Mary Jo Vincent, RN

You may have noticed that recently AED's are popping up everywhere. Currently in Orange County the following 21 agencies are approved AED service provider agencies; Anaheim Fire Department, Brea Fire Department, Costa Mesa Fire Department, Fullerton Fire Department, Garden Grove Fire Department, Laguna Beach Fire Department, Laguna Beach Lifeguards, Newport Beach Fire Department, Orange County Fire Authority, Boeing, Event Medical Services, Knotts Berry Farm, Medical and Safety Management (MSMI), City of Placentia Police Department, Orange County Sheriffs Harbor Patrol, State Beach Lifeguards, US Ocean Safety, Orange County Search and Rescue, City of Huntington Beach Marine Safety.

OCEMS collects data each time an approved AED service provider agency uses an AED. The aggregate

data from the above listed providers is as follows for calendar year 2000;

The number of patients on whom EMT-1 defibrillatory shocks were administered.	40
Number of these persons who suffered a witnessed (seen or heard) cardiac arrest whose initial monitored rhythm was v-tach or v-fib.	24
The total number of patients defibrillated who were discharged from the hospital alive.	6
The number of defibrillated patients witnessed in cardiac arrest who were discharged from the hospital alive.	5
The number of basic life support personnel who are qualified in Orange County to perform defibrillation.	1,846
The number of public safety personnel (as defined in CCR Chapter 1.5) in Orange County qualified to perform defibrillation.	1,791



Code Triage By Paul Russell, RN

Within the next three weeks the Orange County Fire Chiefs will be finishing the annual mass casualty exercise schedule for 2001 through 2005. This is not something cast in cement, but will provide the nets with a compass to navigate by. At this point in the year 2001, there are four exercises on the horizon;

- May 23, 2001 – Red Net and the City of Huntington Beach – chemical exercise at H.B. pier
- Fall, 2001 – participants in proximity to JWA – John Wayne Airport Aviation MCI (every 3 years)
- Fall, 2001 – all hospital nets – San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Exercise (SONGS)
- November 15, 2001 – all hospital nets – Statewide communications exercise

These are just some of the simulations which ambulance transport providers and hospitals will have an opportunity to participate in.

QI Corner by David Johnson, RN

OCEMS is in the process of starting a new data system that links Trauma, Base, PRC, and Certification data. EMS is also looking at a whole new set of guidelines for Bystander CPR/AED and ACLS. The Fire CQI Subcommittee is looking at new QI plans for their respective departments. There are many new processes and systems to be learned, developed and implemented. "The following are six sources of problems with a process that should be looked at before blaming the people" (from Joiner Associates' The Team Handbook)



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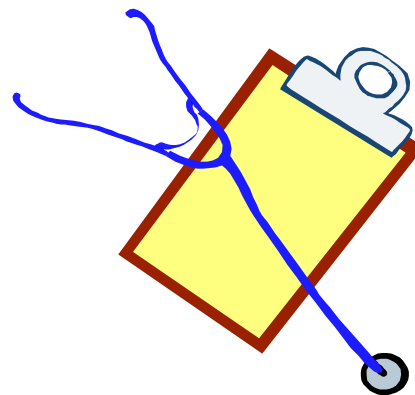
Winter 2000 Inservices

By Jane Elder, RN

Updated protocol changes to the Orange County EMS Treatment Guidelines went into effect at 0700 hours on Thursday February 1st, 2001. Treatment guideline protocols that were updated were: bradycardias, non-traumatic abdominal pain, altered mental status, burns, diving injuries, and newborn care. Minor procedural changes were made to the Combitube and endotracheal tube algorithms, to include a reminder that the esophageal intubation detector device/syringe must be used each time a Combitube or ET tube is placed. Three articles were included in the study packet to emphasize important teaching points for the protocol changes. In addition, one new policy was presented, policy #330.53, Emergency Information Sheet for Patients with Severe or Chronic Illnesses.

This was the first-ever inservice presented entirely via a self-learning packet. All certified paramedics and MICNs, as well as Saddleback College paramedic students, were responsible to review the written material and take and return a post-test. The post-test was a combination of true/false, multiple choice, fill in the blank, and essay-type questions. The most frequently missed questions were: explain the principle on which the EDD is used to assess placement of an ALS airway; triage of a trauma patient who also has significant burns; and appropriate paramedic response when asked to perform an interfacility transfer for a patient who has on-going treatment that is outside of the paramedic's scope of practice.

OCEMS is now preparing for the next inservices, which are anticipated to be held in early summer 2001.



National EMS Week is Coming...

By Barb Andrade, RN

Friday, May 25th 8:00am-11:00am

UCI Medical Center will be co-hosting National EMS Week this year. This year's theme, "EMS: Answering the Call," emphasizes the responsiveness of emergency medical services around the country, while underscoring the importance of the national 9-1-1 emergency number system. It also addresses the passion and commitment of the 750,000 EMS providers who serve their communities.



"National EMS Week honors the lifesaving care that EMS providers offer nationwide, 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week," said Robert W. Schafermeyer, MD, FACEP, president of ACEP. "EMS Week 2001 is a unique opportunity to recognize EMS contributions with a very special emphasis on the emergency care needs of children."

QI Corner

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1. Inadequate knowledge of how a process does work.
2. Inadequate knowledge of how a process should work.
3. Errors and mistakes in executing the procedures.
4. Current practices which fail to recognize the need for preventative measures.
5. Unnecessary steps, inventory buffers, wasteful measures/data.
6. Variation in inputs and outputs.

In other words, don't look at individuals first when identifying problems.

A good piece of advice in QI is to look at the process before blaming the person.

New Faces in EMS

Have you noticed some new faces in the EMS community recently? Well, you're not alone. OCEMS would like to welcome all of the newcomers and congratulate those who have been promoted. Just to name a few, WMCSA has two new additions to their prehospital care section. Janet Hewson, RN is the new Trauma Program Manager. Prior to this new position, Janet was the PCC for 3 ½ years. Donna Cloe, RN is the new PCC at WMCSA. Donna has worked in the ER at WMCSA for the past 12 years. She also worked as a Nurse Educator for OCFA for 5 years. UCIMC also has a new PCC, Carerie Kozak, RN. Carerie has worked in the ER at UCI for several years and was also the PCC at Loma Linda.

Welcome to each and every one of you!

EMS Staff

If you have questions for someone in OCEMS, the general office number is (714) 834-3500. The fax number is (714) 834-3125. Individual telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed below.

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SAVE THE DATE

May 8, 2001

Nurse Recognition Luncheon

Hyatt Alicante in Anaheim

1 hour of CE will be provided

Advance tickets \$20.00

(714) 834-2964

Coming Events

March 2001



13	FAC	09:00
14	BHPD	11:00
14	CPAC	1:00
15	Trauma Ops	11:00

April 2001



5	Fire Chiefs EMS	09:00
5	PCC	1:00
6	Hoag RPAC	0830
9	QAB	12:00
13	Mission RPAC	08:30
17	HB RPAC	08:30
26	UCI RPAC	08:30
27	EMCC	09:00

"The whole of life lies in the verb seeing."

- Teilhard De Chardin

March/April 2001

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED